

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND DEFINITIONS FOR THE WETLAND EVALUATION FORMS

Density: Number of individuals per unit area.

Distribution: The geographic occurrence or range of a species. In this report, distribution is quantified only along transects.

Dominance: A description of vegetation that is related to the standing crop of a species in an area, usually measured by areal cover, height or basal area (for trees).

Draining: The reduction or elimination of ground or surface water by artificial means. Activities in this category include, but are not limited to, dewatering, pumping, ditching, or otherwise altering waterflow patterns.

Duration (of inundation or saturation): The length of time water stands above the soil surface (inundation), or that water fills most soil pores near the soils surface during the growing season.

Edge Irregularity: A condition by which the boundaries between wetland and upland are not uniform and/or linear. Indicators of irregularity include, but are not limited to, peninsulas, coves, natural drainage inlets or outlets and prior disturbances to the edge.

Emergent Plant: A rooted, herbaceous plant species that has parts extending above a water surface.

Enhanced: An existing natural system (such as a wetland) where some activity of man increases one or more values, often with the accompanying decline in other values.

Facultative Plant: A plant that occurs in both wetlands and uplands (>33-66% of the time).

Facultative Wetland Plant: A plant that usually occurs in wetlands (>66-99% of the time).

Fill Material: Any material placed in an area to increase surface elevation.

Flooding: A condition in which the surface of non-inundated soil is temporarily or permanently covered with water or where the water levels of already inundated soil is increased. Examples of activities in this category include, but are not limited to, the discharge of treated effluent, diversion of storm water, diversion or channelization of an existing stream, and impoundment.

Fringe Wetland: Those wetlands which either cumulatively (both sides) occupy less than 3 times the width of an adjacent channel on any line perpendicular to flow; or cumulatively occupy less than one-third the surface of a standing body of water at the time of highest annual water.

Growing Season: The portion of the year when soil temperatures at 19.7 inches below soil surface are higher than biologic zero (5° C).

Habitat: The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

Headwaters: The point on a non-tidal stream above which the average annual flow is less than 5 cubic feet per second.

Hydrologic Regime: The distribution and circulation of water in an area on average during a given period including normal fluctuations and periodicity.

Hydrology: The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water both on the surface and under the earth.

Interspersion: The degree of intermingling of different cover types, regardless of the number of types or their relative proportions.

Lacustrine System: Wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% areal coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 20 acres, or if less than 20 acres, a wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceeds 6.6 feet at low water.

Morphological Adaptations: Structural modifications that most often provide a plant with increased buoyancy or support in aquatic conditions. In some cases, the adaptation involves the uptake of nutrients and/or gases.

Nonwetland: An area that has sufficiently dry conditions that indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and/or wetland hydrology are lacking.

Normal Environmental Conditions: Normal seasonal or annual variations in environmental conditions that result from causes other than human activities or catastrophic natural events.

Obligate Plant: A plant that nearly always occurs in wetlands (>99% of the time).

Prevalence Index: A weighted average measure of the sum of the frequency of all species along a single transect, or as calculated for a plant community by averaging the prevalence index of all sample transects through a community.

Restored Wetland: A wetland returned from a disturbed or altered condition to a previously existing natural or altered condition by some action of man (i.e., fill removal).

Slope: A piece of ground that is not flat or level.

Soil: The collection of natural bodies on the earth's surface containing living matter and supporting or capable of supporting plants out-of-doors. Places modified or even made by man of earthy materials are included. The upper limit of soil is air or shallow water and at its margins

it grades to differ from parent materials as a result of interaction, over time, of climate, living organisms, parent materials and relief.

Success: Achieving established goals of a mitigation plan. Wetland mitigation success ideally requires that the criteria, preferable measurable as quantitative values, be established prior to commencement of these activities.

Swamp Forest: A mixed forest system found in poorly-drained lowlands. In this document, swamp forests are not associated with streams.